

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02822 060911Z

17

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W
----- 022823

R 051353Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9117

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS PRAGUE 2822

USIA FOR IEU J. SADLIK AND IMV R. SCOTT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CSCE, CZ

SUBJ: AMEMBASSY TOUR OF BARRANDOV FILM STUDIOS

REF: PRAGUE 2754

1. GOC USED OTHERWISE ROUTINE AMEMBASSY TOUR OF EXTENSIVE BARRANDOV FILM STUDIOS NOV. 3 TO DELIVER A POLITICAL MESSAGE.

2. STUDIO DEPUTY DIRECTOR VACLAV KONAR WELCOMED AMERICAN DELEGATION IN QUOTE THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS UNQUOTE. WITH A. SIMECEK, HEAD OF SIXTH DEPARTMENT CULTURAL OFFICE PRESENT, KONAR SAID CZECHS WILLING TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THEIR COOPERATION WITH AMERICAN FILM PRODUCERS IN COPRODUCTION AREA. CITED RECENTLY COMPLETED WARNER BROS. FILM SEVEN MEN AT DAYBREAK AND SAID BARRANDOV OFFERS LOW PRICES AND SKILLED TECHNICAL WORK. HE RESTATED GOC DESIRE TO INCREASE ITS SALE OF FILMS TO AMERICAN MARKET.

3. DIRECTOR ALSO, IN OBVIOUS RESPONSE TO CONVERSATION OF OCT. 23 WITH USIA IMV DIRECTOR SCOTT (SEE REFTEL), SAID THAT IN WAKE OF POST '68 EVENTS STUDIO LOST ABOUT 20 OF ITS 50 DIRECTORS. HE SAID PASSER, FORMAN, LUSTIG AND OTHERS ARE NOW WORKING IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT THAT OTHER EQUALLY TALENTED PERSONALITIES REMAINED AND ARE NOW FREE TO COME AND GO. HE SAID BARRANDOV POLICY WAS TO HARBOR SOME CONTROVERSIAL DIRECTORS WHO CHOOSE TO REMAIN, EVEN IF THEY COULDN'T WORK FOR POLITICAL REASONS. HE ADDED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE '68 GENERATION, LIKE BOHUMIL HRABAL, ARE NOW

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02822 060911Z

WORKING AND THAT NO ONE REALLY HAD TO LOSE OUT. QUOTE YOU MUST

UNDERSTAND HOW THINGS WORK IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNQUOTE WAS HIS FINAL POINT.

4. IN SURPRISINGLY FRANK DISCUSSION OF CURRENT STATE OF CZECH CINEMATOGRAPHY, KONAR SAID GOOD SCRIPTS ARE HARD TO COME BY AT PRESENT, AS ARE TRULY IMAGINATIVE DIRECTORS AND FIRST-RATE ACTING TALENT OF INTERNATIONAL CALIBRE. DIRECTOR SAID TOO MANY CZECH ACTORS WENT INTO MOTION PICTURES TO AVOID BEING DRAFTED AND THAT THEY LACK SEX-APPEAL QUOTE LIKE BURT LANCASTER UNQUOTE. KONAR SAID THE BIGGEST SINGLE PROBLEM WITH EMERGING GENERATION OF CZECH FILM PEOPLE IS A QUOTE LACK OF GUTS UNQUOTE.

COMMENT: WHILE GOC IS YET TO INDICATE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, IT INTENDS TO DO AS BASKET THREE FOLLOWUP, THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT CZECHS WOULD LIKE TO PLAY FROM WHAT THEY REGARD AS ONE OF THEIR TRADITIONAL STRENGTHS, THEIR FILM INDUSTRY, AND TO INCREASE THEIR EXPOSURE TO THE UNITED STATES THROUGH IT. PERRY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY COMPLIANCE, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MOTION PICTURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE02822
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750385-0873
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751172/aaaacmgs.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRAGUE 2754
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 OCT 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMEMBASSY TOUR OF BARRANDOV FILM STUDIOS
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006